

## **CAB Advocacy in FY21**

### **July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021**

#### **Food and Nutrition**

- July 30, 2020 – CAB submitted a letter to Maryland Senators asking that they encourage Senate leadership to include SNAP in the next Coronavirus Relief Package. Funding would increase SNAP benefits and expand P-EBT.
- April 14, 2021 – CAB joined a Maryland Hunger Solutions sign-on letter advocating for inclusion of funding in the federal infrastructure bill for free healthy school meals for all children.
- June 21, 2021 – CAB joined two Maryland Hunger Solutions sign-on letters supporting the universal school meals program and the summer SNAP.

#### **Affordable Housing**

- July 22, 2020 – CAB submitted a letter to County Council in support of a \$20 million allocation to expand rental assistance – a critical need during the COVID-19 emergency
- April 13, 2021 – CAB submitted messages to all County Delegation Delegates and Senators, asking for their support of various bills that support renters' rights in the state.

#### **Police Reform**

- July 7, 2020 – CAB EC member Zelda Wafer-Alonge testified at the County Council hearing on behalf of CAB in support of Council Bill 27-20, which required certain restrictions on police use of force.

#### **Early Childhood Education**

- July 14, 2020 – CAB submitted a message to Congressman Jamie Raskin requesting that he join a sign-on letter advocating for additional funding for Head Start and Early Head Start to support COVID-19 recovery efforts.
- July 14, 2020 – CAB added its support to a Montgomery Moving Forward Early Care and Education Workforce Advocacy Coalition letter. The letter highlighted the needs of child care providers working to reopen following the COVID-19 emergency. The letter specifically requested support for the HEROES Act (providing funding for workers and families) and "Child Care is Essential Act" (providing relief to the child care sector).
- July 14, 2020 – CAB joined the National Head Start Association's advocacy efforts to provide funding for Head Start programs. A letter to Congressman Raskin encouraged him to add his name to a sign-on letter requesting resources needed to protect children, families, and staff and reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in Head Start's early learning centers.
- March 31, 2021 – CAB joined a sign-on letter to the Governor from Montgomery Moving Forward and the Early Care and Education Workforce Advocacy Coalition that included recommendations for how American Rescue Plan funds for child care should be spent in Maryland.

- June 1, 2021 – CAB joined a second sign-on letter to the Governor from Montgomery Moving Forward and the Early Care and Education Workforce Advocacy Coalition that included detailed recommendations for how American Rescue Plan funds for child care should be spent in Maryland.

#### **Workforce Development/Employment**

- September 15, 2020 – CAB submitted testimony in support of County Council bill 35-20, which would expand the “ban the box” protections in the County.

#### **EITC/WFIS/CTC/VITA**

- January 12, 2021 – CAB submitted testimony in support of HB143, which would create a Child Tax Credit for those who are excluded from the federal Child Tax Credit.
- January 21, 2021 – CAB submitted testimony in support of HB176, which would increase the value of the state EITC for single filers without dependents.
- February 5, 2021 – CAB submitted testimony in support of HB608, which would provide grants to childcare providers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- March 31, 2021 – CAB members, along with partners from the CASH Campaign of Maryland, the Maryland Center on Economic Policy, and the Capital Area Food Bank, met with Council Vice President Albornoz to advocate for full funding of the Working Families Income Supplement.
- April 5, 2021 – CAB members, along with partners, met with Councilmember Rice to advocate for full funding of the Workings Families Income Supplement.
- May 11, 2021 – Tiffany testified on behalf of the CAB in support of Council Bill 14 – 21, which would extend the Working Families Income Supplement to filers who qualify for the federal or newly expanded Maryland EITC.

#### **COVID Relief**

- January 10, 2021 – CAB supported a virtual Maryland Relief Rally, which called on Governor Hogan to release the state’s rainy-day funds for a state stimulus during the pandemic. CAB signed a petition supporting this effort initiated by a coalition called Maryland United for COVID Relief Now.

#### **CAB Priorities**

- November 11, 2020 – Tiffany testified on behalf of CAB at the Joint Delegation Hearing. The testimony focused on the digital divide, racial equity, affordable housing, early childhood education, workforce development, the whole family approach – all within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- November 18, 2020 – Tiffany testified at the County Council HHS Committee Worksession for Boards, Committees, and Commissions on behalf of CAB. The board’s testimony focused on the digital divide, racial equity, affordable housing, early childhood education, workforce development, and accessibility/navigation of services.

- February 24, 2021 – CAB Chair Tiffany Jones joined staff as a greeter for the Maryland Community Action Partnership Virtual Advocacy Day. The event included members of the County Delegation: Anne Kaiser, Jared Solomon and Pam Queen.
- April 7, 2021 – Tiffany testified on behalf of the full CAB at the County Council budget hearing, advocating for full funding of the Working Families Income Supplement, early childhood education support, workforce development, and other CAB priorities.